

ITF STATEMENT

ON **GREEN** AND

HEALTHY STREETS:

TRANSITIONING

TO **ZERO**

EMISSION



OUR
PUBLIC
TRANSPORT

TRANSPORT

Global Climate Action Summit, San Francisco, USA, 13 September 2018

As a global union federation representing over 20 million transport workers in 145 countries worldwide, the ITF is proud to be leading a programme for Our Public Transport. We recognise that if we act NOW, there is still a chance of stopping dangerous climate change. Expanding public transport is an essential part of the fight to bring down greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change. Bold policies are needed, adapted to specific national and city contexts.

The ITF supports the C40 Cities 'Green & Healthy Streets (Fossil-Fuel-Free Streets) Declaration' and the commitment by mayors of pioneering cities around the world to procure, with partners, zero emission buses by 2025 and ensure that major areas of cities are zero emissions by 2030. These are bold commitments, which we congratulate, acknowledging that the most effective way to implement them is through a process of just transition involving job creation, decent work and quality jobs, and social security schemes which safeguard people's livelihoods and social and human rights.

The ITF recognises that public transport needs to become more energy efficient and with lower emissions. When the principle of electrification is applied with the decarbonisation of the electricity supply, big gains in emissions reductions will be achieved. As a labour movement, we support policies which will result in improvements to the daily lives of low income and marginalized communities. Working class urban neighborhoods are often close to high traffic and industrial areas. Dirty air in cities, and the health problems which come with it, disproportionately affect these neighborhoods and the people who live in them. Public transport workers themselves are exposed to high levels of risk from air pollution as a result of long-term occupational exposure.

Achieving zero emissions in cities is only possible with an immediate and ambitious expansion of affordable, abundant, safe and reliable public transport globally.

Building the public transport systems of the future can create millions of quality jobs throughout the value chain of infrastructure and transport. It can also bring previously marginalized groups into the world of work and provide more secure and skilled employment. C40's Green & Healthy Streets Declaration may have positive wider impacts as gender equity can be promoted by attracting and retaining women, and challenging occupational segregation in the sector. Procurement for public transport has the potential to incorporate decent work standards as well as training and apprenticeships for women, youth, and marginalized communities.

In most of the world's cities, there is a growing spatial mismatch between where work is available, and where poor and working class people live. Affordable, abundant, safe and reliable public transport is a critical and effective poverty reduction measure, enabling poor and working class people to access paid and better quality employment.

In order to realise these objectives, the ITF and its affiliates are ready to play a role in supporting C40's Green & Healthy Streets Declaration by:

- Working in partnerships with mayors and cities to ensure that the transition to fossil-fuel-free streets is a just transition that creates decent jobs, reduces inequality, and drives inclusion and improvements in the lives of working class and low income people.
- Building partnerships with mayors and city authorities to develop and integrate just transition plans that drive decent work and social action, including labour impact assessments, safeguards and job targets for men and women workers.
- Mobilising workers knowledge and skills to shape and enhance the supportive actions needed to meet the commitments in the Declaration.
- Working in partnerships with mayors and city authorities to deliver a just transition to zero emission buses, including developing plans for relevant worker training.

For further information:

Alana Dave
ITF Our Public Transport programme leader
dave_alana@itf.org.uk
www.OurPublicTransport.org
#OurPublicTransport
@AlanaDave